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ground puppies, to include the large hell-bender of the western waters; the mud pup or water-lizard of the northern lakes, or *Menobranchus*; the congo eel or ground puppy (*Siren* and *Amphiuma*) of the southern rice-fields, etc., as well as the smaller kinds found in damp places under stones and logs. A series of the frogs will also be acceptable.

All these animals should be suitably boxed and transmitted, as far as possible, alive; or, if dead, packed in ice, so as to insure their coming in good condition. The serpents require no special precautions in the way of packing; if of nearly the same size several may be sent together. If the disproportion be very great, there is, however, danger that the larger may devour the smaller. No rattlesnakes, copperheads or moccasins should be transmitted. The turtles should be wrapped or sewed up in some kind of cloth, so as to prevent friction. They should not be sent loose with the softer objects. Serpents require no moisture; frogs and salamanders should be packed with wet moss. Among the turtles should be included the soft-shell species, the true terrapins, the land tortoises, etc. Single specimens of any living reptiles, as well as larger numbers, including duplicates, will always be gladly received, and due acknowledgment made for the same. The largest procurable representatives of each species is desirable. Transmissions may be made by any express company, freight to be paid in Washington. Address the Smithsonian Institution.

— Prof. Semper during his late visit to the United States gave us the following recipe for a writing fluid for labels for alcoholic specimens. Use India ink dissolved in strong acetic acid; write and let it dry. It will stand for years.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, BOSTON.—March 13. Prof. Edward S. Morse gave an account of a mountain excursion in Japan, adding incidentally much information in regard to the manners and customs of the people of that country. The recital was listened to with close attention, and Prof. Morse then answered many questions propounded by those present. A recess was taken to permit the club to reorganize as an incorporated body. Prof. Niles was chosen temporary clerk, and the necessary steps were taken to perfect the organization upon its new basis. A series of by-laws was adopted, differing in no essential sense from the old constitution, and the old board of officers were re-elected without change.

The necessary vote directing the officers to deliver to the new body all records, monies, etc., in their possession, was passed by the old organization. An exhibition of pictures was held by the Club in the gallery of the Boston Art Club, 64 Boylston street, the use of which has been kindly granted for this purpose during

the last week in March. The exhibition opened Tuesday, March 26, at 10 o'clock, A. M., and closed on Friday, the 29th, at 10 o'clock, P. M. Pictures of scenery among the mountains of New England were exhibited.

April 4, a special meeting was held to hear and discuss a paper by Prof. H. F. Walling on some recent views of mountain structure.

April 10, a communication from Prof. A. Lakes, on an ascent of Long's Peak, was read and an account of some barometrical observations in the White Mountains was received from Prof. F. W. Clarke.

CINCINNATI SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.—This Society held its regular meeting in its building, corner of Broadway and Arch streets, on Tuesday evening, 3d inst. This was the occasion for annual reports by the retiring officers, and the election of their successors. The report of the Treasurer showed a balance in the treasury of over \$40,000, so invested as to produce an annual income of \$3,500. The financial matters of the society have been very carefully managed by the Trustees, and hence these gratifying results. The Society owns its own buildings, and has no outstanding debts whatever.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, V. T. Chambers; Vice-Presidents, Prof. I. F. Judge and S. S. Cotton; Treasurer, I. A. Wright; Recording Secretary, Florian Giasque; Corresponding Secretary, I. W. Hall; Librarian, I. C. Shroyer; Custodian, Dr. I. H. Hunt. The Curators elected were as follows: Mineralogy, Dr. R. M. Byrnes; Palæontology, Ed. O. Ulrich; Botany, Davis L. James; Conchology, Prof. A. G. Wetherby; Entomology, I. W. Shorten; Ornithology, Charles Dury; Ichthyology, Dr. D. S. Young; Herpetology, Frank W. Langdon; Comparative Anatomy, Dr. A. J. Howe; Astronomy, Prof. Ormond Stone; Physics and Chemistry, Prof. R. B. Warder; Meteorology, Prof. Geo. W. Harper; Microscopy, Fred. Eckstein; Archæology, Dr. H. H. Hill. The Society will now issue a regular quarterly journal of proceedings, the editors being Prof. I. F. Judge, Prof. G. W. Harper and Prof. A. G. Wetherby. The buildings are situated at the corner of Broadway and Arch streets, Cincinnati, Ohio, and are always open to the public.—*A. G. W.*

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—March 21. W. Wright Hawkes, LL.D., delivered a lecture on the so-called Celtic monuments of Brittany.

ELMIRA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.—March 15. Dr. W. H. Gregg remarked on time and the evolution theory, and F. Collingwood made a communication on the new moon of Mars versus the nebular hypothesis. Scientific progress in 1877 was then discussed, a phonograph was exhibited, and singing and talking with Blossburg by telephones was listened to by the members.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—This body convened in Washington at the Smithsonian Institution, on Tuesday, April 16, and remained in session four days, adjourning on Friday the 19th. The following papers were read before it:

"Formation and Structure of Alacrane Reef in the Yucatan Bank," by Prof. Alexander Agassiz, of Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.; the Theory of Water-Spouts," by Mr. William Ferrel, of the United States Coast Survey; "Report on the Orbits of the Satellites of Mars," by Professor Asaph Hall, of the Naval Observatory; Mr. Raphael Pumpelly read a paper on "the Relation of Loess and Drift to Secular Disintegration;" "the Characteristic Invertebrate Forms of the Central Zoö-Geographical Province" by Dr. A. S. Packard, Jr. Dr. J. E. Hilgard, on "An Optical Ocean Salinometer." "Plan for Measuring the Velocity of Light," by Prof. Simon Newcomb, of Washington; "On the Force of Effective Molecular Action," by Prof. Wm. A. Norton, of New Haven, Conn.; "Remarks on the value of the result obtained for the Solar Parallax from the English Telescopic Observations," by Prof. C. H. F. Peters, of Clinton, N. Y.; "On the Vertebrate Fauna of the Permian Period of the United States, by Prof. E. D. Cope, of Philadelphia, Pa.; "On the discovery of Oxygen in the Sun," by Dr. Henry Draper, of New York City; "On Complex Inorganic Acids, by Dr. Wolcott Gibbs, of Harvard University, Mass.; "On improvements in methods of deep sea dredging, by Mr. Alexander Agassiz; "On Boyle's and Mariottes Laws," by Prof. Wolcott Gibbs; "On the Abrasions of the N. W. Coast of America," by Prof. Geo. Davidson, of San Francisco, Cal.; Photometric comparison of the Components of Close Double Stars," by Prof. E. C. Pickering, of Cambridge, Mass.; "On the Duplication of Geographical Names," by Dr. F. V. Hayden, of Washington; "Characteristics of some of the Lower Spectral Lines, by Prof. S. P. Langley, of Allegheny, Pa.; "A New Element of the Cerium Group, Prof. J. Lawrence Smith, of Louisville, Ky.; "On the Primary Zoö-Geographical Divisions of the Globe and their Relations," by Dr. Theodore Gill, of Washington; "On the Laws Governing the Movements of the Rocky Mountain Locusts," by Prof. C. V. Riley, Entomologist of the Department of Agriculture; "Photometric Measures of Certain Faint Stars and Satellites," by Prof. E. C. Pickering; "Recent Displacements in Utah, by G. K. Gilbert.

At the conclusion of Mr. Gilbert's paper, the Secretary read the address of the venerable and revered President, Professor Joseph Henry, to the Academy. After reading a number of papers by title, the proceedings concluded with a paper entitled "Supplementary notice on the paper whence came the inner Satellite of Mars?" read at the October session, 1877, by the venerable Professor Stephen Alexander, of the College of New Jersey, Princeton, N. J.

On the evening of the 17th, Prof. Arnold Guyot, of Princeton, N. J., read a paper on the Life of Louis Agassiz in America. Dr. Elliott Coues, in the absence of the author, read a Memoir of Prof. Jeffries Wyman, by Dr. A. S. Packard, Jr.

Communication was made by a representative of the subscribers to the fund, amounting to \$40,000, presented to Professor Joseph Henry as a testimonial of their high appreciation of his services and his unselfish devotion to the cause of science, the principal of which is finally to go to the National Academy of Science, to form a fund to be known as the Joseph Henry Fund, the interest of which is to be devoted to assist the original research. The academy now holds a similar fund, "the Bache fund," the principal of which was left to the academy by its first President, Prof. A. Dallas Bache, and the income from it has been applied to the assistance of investigators in many of the most important branches of science. The list of contributors to the "Henry" fund, which is made up mainly in sums of \$1000, embraces the names of well known persons in the large cities of the United States.

AT A MEETING of the Jewett Scientific Society of Lockport, N. Y., Jan. 25, 1878, Mr. A. F. Goodman read a paper on the sword-fish and its habits. Dr. S. F. Clark presented a paper recording his observations on ants. Feb. 8th, Mr. M. S. Burnett delivered a lecture on evolution, and Dr. A. W. Tryon remarked on the process of petrification.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, May 8.—Prof. C. E. Hamlin read an account of Mt. Katahdin, Maine, illustrated by a model of the mountain. The councillors presented reports of their plans for the summer's work. A meeting of those wishing to form a section of exploration was held May 11th. On Saturday, May 18, 1878, an excursion was made to Blue Hill, Milton, Mass. On Wednesday, July 10, 1878, a field meeting will be held at the Fabyan House, White Mts., N. H.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, April 16th.—Elial F. Hall read a paper entitled Gerard Mercator, his life and works, while addresses were made by the President of the Society, and others upon the state of geographical knowledge before Mercator.

SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, April 3.—The regular exercises were contributions towards a history of Maryland Cambria, by Mr. Uhler; a paper on Nitro-sulpho-benzoic Acids, by Mr. Hart; Theory of Groups, by Dr. Story.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, April 17.—Mr. Richard Rathborn made an address on the late Prof. C. F. Hartt, and his Brazilian explorations.

TROY SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION, April 15.—Dr. R. H. Ward read a paper on microscopic ruling and engraving.